



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR SOLDIER MEADOW PROJECT

June 2, 2006 – Winnemucca, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office is looking for people to help with a project near Soldier Meadow Hot Springs in the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA). The project, planned for Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25, is located about 130 miles north-northeast of Reno or about 50 miles north of Gerlach.

Volunteers will reroute the access road at Soldier Meadow, convert another road to a hiking trail and enlarge several campsites. NCA Manager Dave Cooper says, “This work continues implementation of the Soldier Meadow Recreation Management Plan and will be done inside the Soldier Meadow Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).”

The ACEC was designated to protect the habitat of the Desert Dace [a small fish classified as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) found nowhere in the world except in the streams at Soldier Meadow Hot Spring], and two ESA candidate species, the Elongate Mud Meadows springsnail and Soldier Meadow cinquefoil. Better defining needed access roads and campsites, converting unneeded roads to hiking trails and closing others and helping them go back to nature are important steps in protecting the habitat of these nationally significant species.

Cooper also says, “Since the work can be strenuous and the weather could be hot, it’s important that volunteers be in good physical condition.” There will be a pot luck dinner on Saturday with a main dish provided by the Nevada Outdoor School. Those who stay over till Sunday can continue working or can choose to join BLM Wilderness Specialist Brian Murdock for a hike in the NCA. There is a toilet facility and designated camp area or reservations may be available at the nearby Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch and Lodge by calling (775) 849-2219.

Additional information about the project, how to become a volunteer, and directions to the project site are available by contacting Outdoor Recreation Planner Dave Lefevre at the Winnemucca Field Office at 775-623-1500.